

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner:
allowed claims 3-8; and
rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by G.B. Patent No. 2,374,654 A to Allport ("Allport").

In the Office Action claims 1-8 were pending. Applicants hereby amend claims 1-3 and 6-8. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are independent. Claims 1-8 are presented for consideration in light of the following remarks.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Allport. A rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is improper unless a single prior art reference shows or discloses each and every claim recitation.

Claim 1 recites, in part, *a pressing unit pressing axially the pulley portion and applying a pre-compression to the second elastic member and a fixing position of said pressing unit is capable of being adjusted axially.*

Claim 2 recites, in part, *a pressing unit pressing axially the pulley portion and applying a pre-compression to the second elastic member and an adjustment margin capable of adjusting axially a fitting position of said third fitting portion.*

Allport does not show or disclose the *pressing unit pressing axially the pulley portion and applying a pre-compression to the second elastic member* as recited in claims 1 and 2. Instead, Allport is directed to an annular elastomeric ring 23 having a plurality of sleeves 28 arranged in the circumferential direction and attached in the width direction of the annular elastomeric ring 23 (Allport, Figures 1 & 2, p. 5, paragraph 1). The sleeves 28 receive rigid projections 30, 31 of the opposing annular members 2, 3, thereby *preventing axial pressure from being exerted on the annular elastomeric ring 23*. Furthermore, the disc 4, which the Examiner asserts as disclosing the pressing unit, is actually a portion of the first annular member 2 (Allport, p. 3, paragraph 10) and, thus, cannot possibly press axially upon the annular elastomeric ring 23. In fact, disc 4 of Allport corresponds with disk portion 15 of the present invention (see Figure 1), meaning that disc 4 -- like disk portion 15 -- is a portion of the element (e.g., first annular

member 2) relative to which axial pressure is applied. Thus, Allport does not show or disclose the *pressing unit* as recited in claims 1 and 2.

Allport also does not show or disclose the *fixing position is capable of axial adjustment* as recited in claim 1. Instead, Allport is directed to a “central portion 6 [that] is fixed to one end of a hub member 8” (Allport, p. 4, paragraph 1). Since the fixing position of said members 6, 8 is *fixed* it cannot be *capable of being adjusted axially* as the Examiner suggests. Thus, Allport does not show or disclose the *fixing position* of Applicants’ claim 1.

Allport also does not show or disclose *an adjustment margin capable of adjusting axially a fitting position of said third fitting portion* as recited in claim 2, for at least the same reasons discussed regarding the *fixing position* as recited in claim 1. Thus, Allport does not show or disclose the *adjustment margin* of Applicants’ claim 1.

Because Allport does not show or disclose the above-mentioned features, it is impossible to compress axially the annular elastomeric ring 23 of Allport. As a result, Allport cannot have the feature of the present invention, for instance, Allport cannot achieve the effects in which the fixing position of the pulley portion to the damper portion can be adjusted axially. Namely, in Allport, the fixing position of the pulley portion to the damper portion cannot be adjusted axially.

Therefore, Allport does not show or disclose each and every claim recitation of claims 1 and 2 of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Allport is improper for at least these reasons, and should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in the current Amendment constitutes new matter. Support for the amendments can be found in, at least, paragraphs [0037], [0039], [0045] and [0053].

Having traversed each and every objection and rejection, Applicants respectfully request claims 1-8 be passed to issue.

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Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with this Amendment and Response. If any fees are deemed necessary, please charge them to Deposit Account 13-0235.

Respectfully submitted,

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